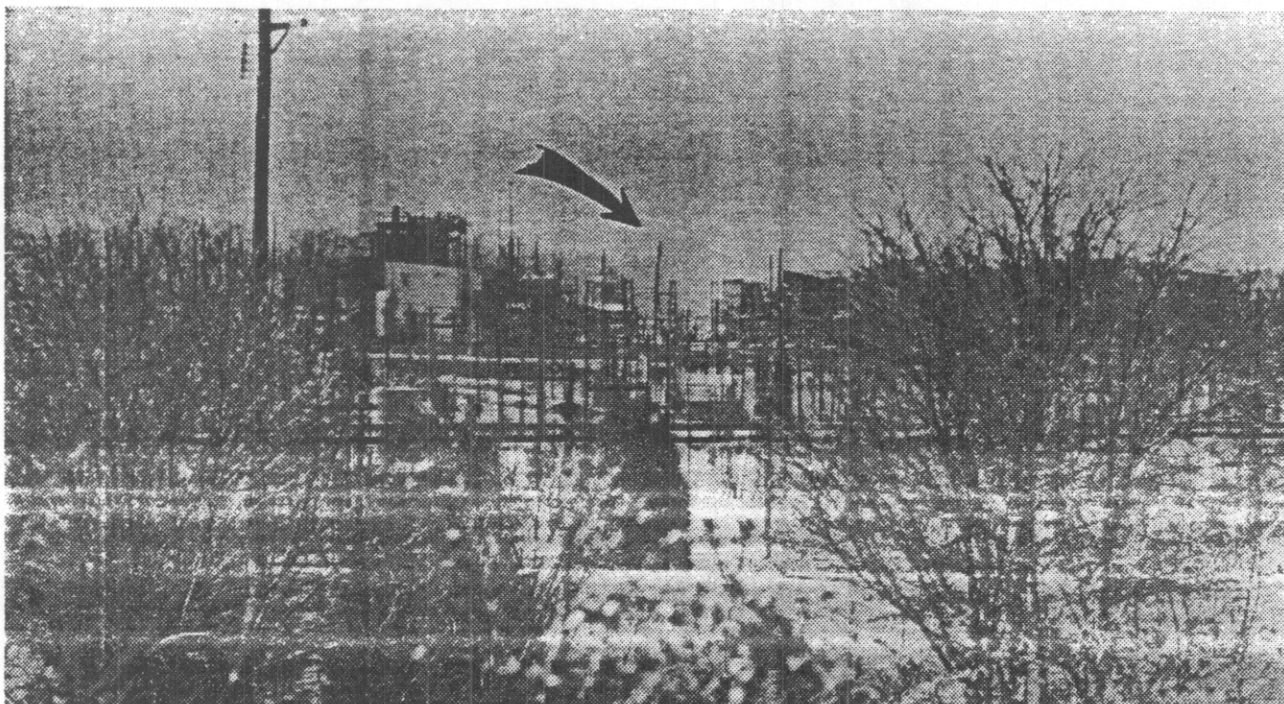


Explosion at VAAP Hurts Two, Halts Production



—Times Staff Photo by W. C. King.

ARROW POINTS TO AREA WHERE BLAST AT TNT PLANT OCCURRED

T3-15-74 p.13
An explosion at the Volun- teer Army Ammunition Plant early Thursday morning left two employees injured and temporarily halted production of TNT.

The blast, which occurred in the Line Five Tri-Nitration house, also resulted in a fire which caused officials of the plant to vacate the area ad-

jacent to the explosion site.

Injured were Alvin A. Leamon of Chattanooga and Clabe Palmer of Ooltewah.

Paul Anderson, plant publi- cation editor, said Leaman and Palmer were struck by acid splatters and were given first aid treatment at the plant dispensary.

Exact cause of the explo-

sion was not determined but Anderson said it was believed to have occurred in the mix- ing chambers. Although the building caught fire, Anderson said, company fire fighters confined the blaze to the im- mediate area.

The Tri-Nitration house is a building in which the final phase, or cooking, of TNT

production is carried on.

Following the blast, com- pany officials announced that TNT production wage roll personnel and magazine area wage roll personnel would not report to work on the 4 to midnight and midnight to 8 a.m. shifts. The normal work schedule was to resume at 8 a.m. today.